

REMARKS

In the Official Action of June 26, 2007, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to point out and definitely claim that which Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as being anticipated by the MacDonald patent and claims 1, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by the Chamberland, *et al.* patent ("Chamberland"). Claims 2, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the Chamberland patent in view of Gribble, *et al.* ("Gribble"). Claim 4 was objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. The §112 rejection of claims 1-7 is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments to claim 1 set out above. The §102 rejections of claims 1 and 7 and of claims 1, 6, and 7 are respectfully traversed because neither the MacDonald nor Chamberland patents disclose all the elements recited in amended claim 1 (and claims 6 and 7, dependent on amended claim 1). Applicant has canceled claims 2-5 and therefore requests withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 2, 3, and 5 over the combination of Chamberland and Gribble. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the rejections, and in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111(b), sets out the following basis for traversing these rejections.

First with regard to the §112 rejection of claims 1-7, claim 1 has been amended to delete all references to a sleeve. The claim now recites that a female pin is engaged to the portion of the male conductive pin that extends through the ceramic disk (rather than reciting that the male and female pins contact each other when a sleeve is engaged to the shell). Support for these amendments to claim 1 is set out at page 6, lines 4-22 of the specification of the captioned application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claim 1, and claim 7 which depends from claim 1, is respectfully requested in light of this amendment.

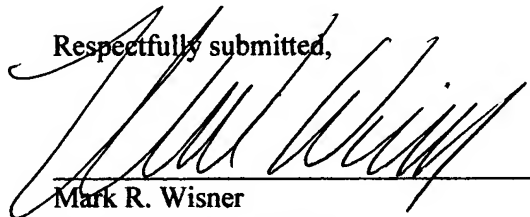
It was indicated in the Official Action of June 26, 2007 that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of §102 rejection of claims 1 and 7 over MacDonald. Consequently, Applicant has amended claim 1 to "splice" the elements called out in claims 2, 3, and 4 into claim 1 and canceled claims 2, 3, and 4. Allowance of amended claim 1, and claims 6 and 7 (dependent upon amended claim 1) is therefore respectfully requested in light of the amendments to claim 1 set out above.

In the amended form set out above, claim 1 is narrower than required to define over MacDonald, Chamberland, and the combination of MacDonald and Gribble. Applicant has therefore presented new claim 8 to "re-claim" some of the scope given up by the above amendments to claim 1. Specifically, claim 8 recites that the lead and sensor wire clamping means comprise a tab that is biased away from a receptacle for receiving the respective lead or

sensor wire (amended claim 1 recites the biasing of the tab by a spring, the spring being confined within and threaded through the tab). This structure is not disclosed in any of the cited references and which avoids the previous disagree between Applicant and the Office as to the meaning of the word "clamping" and whether the prior art shows structure that clamps, there being no dispute of record in the file history, and no disclosure in the art, of a clamp for a lead or sensor wire that includes structure that is biased away from the wire.

Entry of the above amendments to the claims and new claims 8-12, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112 and the prior art rejections, consideration of the remarks set out herein, allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issuance are all respectfully requested. In the unforeseen event that there are questions and/or issues yet to be answered in this application, it is respectfully requested that Applicant's Attorney be contacted at the address and phone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark R. Wisner
Registration No. 30,603
1177 West Loop South, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77027-9012
Telephone: (713) 785-0555
Facsimile: (713) 785-0561

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

26 *ms* 2/6/08
Date: February 16, 2008